

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended)

A floor covering for motor vehicles, with a tufted velour carpet layer (31), comprising a tuft carrier (18) which carries pile knots and ~~has~~is provided with longitudinal rows of tufts (24), comprising zigzagged back-stitches (25), on the underside thereof, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the tuft carrier (18) comprises a plurality of perforations (28),

wherein

the tuft carrier (18) comprises a plurality of perforations (28) defining gaps (37) between the pile knots, said perforations ~~having been~~being produced by tufting needles without pile yarn so that between longitudinal rows (24) of tufts, comprising zigzagged back-stitches (25), longitudinal perforation rows are formed that have been made by tufting needles without pile yarn, wherein for binding the pile knots (29) to the underside of the tuft carrier (18) an adhesive material (32) has been applied, which adhesive material (32) essentially leaves free the perforations (28) that have been formed by the tufting needles without pile yarn.

2. (currently amended)

The floor covering according to claim 1,

~~characterised in that~~ wherein

in parallel transverse rows (27) of tufts a perforation (28) which defines a gap (37) between the pile knots in each case alternates with a pile knot (29).

3. (currently amended)

The floor covering according to claim 1,  
~~characterised in that~~ wherein  
in parallel transverse rows (27) of tufts a single  
perforation (28) which defines a gap (37) between the pile knots  
in each case alternates with two pile knots (29).

4. (currently amended)

The floor covering according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1  
to 3,~~  
~~characterised in that~~ wherein  
in relation to its entire surface, the velour carpet layer  
(31) comprises an essentially homogeneous pile knot density.

5. (currently amended)

The floor covering according to claim 1,  
~~characterised in that~~ wherein  
in parallel transverse rows (27) of tufts at least one  
region is formed in which several pile knots (29) are placed in  
sequence, and at least one region is formed in which each  
individual perforation (28) defining a gap (37) between the pile  
knots is followed by one pile knot (29).

6. (currently amended)

The floor covering according to claim 1,  
~~characterised in that~~ wherein  
in parallel transverse rows (27) of tufts at least one  
region is formed in which three or more pile knots (29) are  
placed in sequence, and at least one region is formed in which  
each individual perforation (28) defining a gap (37) between the  
pile knots is followed by two pile knots (29).

7. (currently amended)

The floor covering according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 6,~~

~~characterised in that~~ wherein

consecutive back-stitches (25) on the respective longitudinal row (24) of tufts encompass an angle ( $\alpha$ ) of at least 100°.

8. (currently amended)

The floor covering according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 7,~~

~~characterised in that~~ wherein

consecutive back-stitches (25) on the respective longitudinal row (24) of tufts encompass an angle ( $\alpha$ ) of at least 110°.

9. (currently amended)

The floor covering according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 8,~~

~~characterised in that~~ wherein

the spacing (C) between consecutive parallel transverse rows of tufts (27) is approximately identical to the spacing (D) of adjacent perforations (28) in the respective transverse rows (27) of tufts.

10. (currently amended)

The floor covering according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 9,~~

~~characterised in that~~ wherein

the height or length of the pile knots (29) is at least 7 mm.

11. (currently amended)

The floor covering according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 10,~~

~~characterised in that~~ wherein

the pile knot mass per unit area of the velour carpet layer (31) ranges from 200 to 250 g/m<sup>2</sup>.

12. (currently amended)

The floor covering according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 11,~~

~~characterised in that~~ wherein

the tuft carrier (18) comprise a maximum of 175,000 pile knots per m<sup>2</sup>.

13. (currently amended)

A method for producing a tufted velour carpet layer (31) as part of a motor vehicle floor covering (30), in which method, by means of a plurality of tufting needles (20) held in a needle holder (2), a plurality of pile yarn (22) is introduced into a tuft carrier (18) according to a racking technique in such a way as to create longitudinal rows (24) of tufts, comprising zigzagged back-stitches (25), on the underside of the tuft carrier (18),

~~characterised in that~~ wherein

a plurality of perforations (28) defining gaps (37) between the pile knots are produced in the tuft carrier (18) by means of tufting needles (20) without pile yarn.

14. (currently amended)

The method according to claim 13,

~~characterised in that~~ wherein

the perforations (28) defining the gaps (37) between the pile knots are introduced such that in parallel transverse rows

(27) of tufts a perforation (28) which defines a gap (37) between the pile knots in each case alternates with a pile knot (29).

15. (currently amended)

The method according to claim 13,

~~characterised in that wherein~~

the perforations (28) defining the gaps (37) between the pile knots are introduced such that in parallel transverse rows (27) of tufts a single perforation (28) which defines a gap (37) between the pile knots in each case alternates with two pile knots (29).

16. (currently amended)

The method according to claim 13 ~~any one of claims 13 to 15,~~

~~characterised in that wherein~~

the advance movement of the tuft carrier (18) and the sliding movement of the tufting needles (20) are matched such that the spacing (C) between subsequent parallel transverse rows (27) of tufts is larger than the amount (E) by which the tufting needles (20) in the racking technique are offset from one transverse row (27) of tufts to another transverse row (27) of tufts.

17. (currently amended)

The method according to claim 13 ~~any one of claims 13 to 16,~~

~~characterised in that wherein~~

the spacing (C) between two adjacent parallel transverse rows (27) of tufts approximately corresponds to the spacing (D) between adjacent tufting needles.

18. (currently amended)

The method according to claim 13 ~~any one of claims 13 to 17,~~

~~characterised in that wherein~~

in relation to its entire surface, the velour carpet layer (31) is produced such that it comprises an essentially homogeneous pile knot density.